**PTA Meeting Notes**

**Tuesday, February 10, 2015**

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**6:30 PM Call to Order** – Lara Gates

**Attendance** – Recognition of Quorum, Trustee Introductions

**Approval of Minutes of previous meeting**

* Motion: Stacey, Second: Ginger. Motion passes

**6:35 PM Administrative Updates**

* Interim Principal – Bruce McGirr
  + Second week at Grant
    - Have seen a lot of improvements. Love the traffic situation out front
  + Figuring out new teachers and new parents/names; be patient
  + No information about Mr. Craig. Mr. McGirr is here as long as the district needs him; only can work a certain number of days. If necessary, could stretch out until end of the year, but not his call
  + Entering budget/staffing/scheduling season. Testing is starting in spring. Stay engaged and involved.
  + Glad to see the success of the K-8. Thank you for sticking with the program; it’s what other schools envy.
  + Parent Question – Do we have a say if we need a new principal?
    - If we have to fill the position, the parents have a say. There will be a selection process. The area superintendent will work directly with the school. It’s a very open process.
  + Next site governance committee meeting is Feb 26th. Hope to have a budget
  + current budget review meeting scheduled for tomorrow, 2/11
* Treasurer’s Report – Alisa
  + $101K in bank. Mid year through fiscal year – We have raised $10K above expenses we have spent. Just received $600 check for Brooklyn Girl fundraiser. Recently got Grant from San Diego Herb Society for the Gecko Garden ($200). Elena Banks facilitated.
  + Expenses – planning for gala, paid workers comp for employees, science fair rewards ($125) and remittance of membership
    - Motion to ratify net expenses from 1/13/2015 through 2/6/2015 totaling $12,065.32. Net expenses include checks 3749 to3761 and electronically processed expenses. Expenses include administrative related expenses, gala expenses, carnival expenses, membership remittance to council, academic league/quiz bowl, holiday sing-a-long, art program, science program, science fair, school supplies and reissued teacher stipends.
      * + Motion: Alisa, Second: Steve. Motion passes
* Foundation/Imagine Campaign Report – Julie Morgan
  + Focus is on STEAM program. One program is tech program (after school pilot program). It is the arduino lab. Showcased program to Chief Innovation Officer (Dan Stoneman) of SD Unified to look at lab (a few desks in Mr. Snyder’s classroom). Mr. Stoneman wants to follow up with some professional development opportunities.
  + Imagine Campaign – Raised almost $54K this year so far. Hats off to Jill Baltan (lead of committee) and the rest of the team. This is a record breaking year for donations/fundraising. Focus is on the parent community. Goal is to bolster science programs, arts program, music program, etc. Trying to get comprehensive in the STEAM program. Any suggestions are welcome.
  + Alumni Reunion – if you are an alumni you are welcome to come to the 2/28 Alumni reunion at Brooklyn Girl. 70 people are already planning to attend. Celebrating our 100 year birthday. Valerie Goodpastor is leading the charge on this event. The planning team has done a great job getting names out there and getting recognition. Feb 20th is drop dead date to say you will attend. There are approximately 40 tickets left.
* ASB Report – Elizabeth
  + Magazine sale just started this week. You can renew magazines through the school. It’s completely optional. Ms. Farson can answer questions
  + 2/25 – spirit day – backwards day. Kids can wear clothes backwards or inside out. Participants will get treats from ASB
  + Currently planning family movie night for March
  + Working on creating a budget and list of expenditures to share with the PTA
* Membership Campaign Report – Lara (Whitney not in attendance)
  + All memberships are accounted for. We have about 230 members currently.
  + No class met the 80% threshold so no ice cream parties were rewarded
* Misc
  + Recognition of Denise for all her hard work with Science Olympiad
    - It’s an annual science competition – it’s been around 32 years
    - Participation is voluntary
    - There are 23 events all related to science
    - This year, 116 teams from 37 schools participated. Grant sent 3 teams; 27 students. We participated in half of the events. We struggle to get coaches
    - Schools we compete against are 1500-2000 students strong
    - Our region is most competitive in the nation. Only region that allows 6 teams per region
    - We have participated for 5 years. Some schools have intra school competitions.
    - Results: We won 3 awards. Top 20 placements are awarded. Cameron Cage won 9th place, pair of girls one 16th place in Anatomy, a 6th grade boy won 19th place in entomology.
    - An 8th grader Alan designed our t-shirts this year
    - Anne Anthony comment: During quiz bowl we have a reputation for both. People can’t believe we only have 200 middle school kids.

**6:55 PM Information Items**

* Solicit input on PTA budget for next school year
  + Waiting for budget from SD Unified
  + Solicit input from PTA members about programs that we should consider next year
    - This year we are doing First in Math - $3500, Library -$1K, Music – $18,200, Gecko Garden – $3K, Science Coordinator - $35K, Spanish Teacher - $45K, Stipends - $2K and other items
    - Full list is available on online
  + Budget subcommittee met 2 weeks ago to brainstorm ideas
  + Parent/Teacher suggestions and comments:
    - Mandated PE is 200 minutes in every 10 days. Prep time teacher is supposed to service the kids 45 min – 1 hour 1x a week.
      * Schedules have changed with new PE teacher. Don’t have extra fitness class
      * Classroom teacher has to do additional 60 mins. Some teachers do it, others do not. It’s hard given the number of subjects
      * Parent Suggestion: Fund half of PE teacher.
      * Parent Suggestion: Running club as part of school day
    - A lot of unsupervised kids here in the morning. Paid personnel to watch kids and institute physical education. Should talk about this subject at SSC meeting
    - Raz Kids - $79-$99 – 36 students. It lasts for 1 year
    - Funding for field trips, speakers, assemblies, etc. Minimum costs for assemblies are $300. We would need an assembly coordinator to make this happen and flexibility from the staff.
      * Examples direct to art assembly, literature comes to life, mad science, magic based but topics related to bullying and community
      * First grade pays for classes for kids to come in – music based presentations
      * Suggestion from parent – limit number of assemblies
      * Teachers need to advise what assemblies they desire.
      * Suggestion from parent - identify a week each year to give teacher’s plenty of notice
    - Consider supporting ASB so we don’t have conflicts with fundraising efforts
    - Keep art and science coordinator/garden program. PE is important, but would like to see continued funding for art programs
    - Funding for buses for field trips. T-K particularly doesn’t have enough parent volunteers and some parents don’t feel comfortable with parent drivers
    - Music teacher funding. She is at Grant full time – she is specifically for 4th and 5th grade and middle school. Could we utilize her in lower grades? Answer: Not enough hours to push it down to the lower grades
    - Nice sound system, nice vacuum cleaner (Don Craig was going to look into this), megaphone
    - Dissecting supplies– Ginger Tyson uses her own money or asks for money to get supplies or asks for donations.
    - All middle school students get text books. District funds 1 text book per child. Backpacks are heavy. Many classrooms do not have class set. We could fund books and the student’s copies could live at home.
      * Every 7 years books are reviewed, every 10 years they are supposed to be replaced.
      * Also, there are issues where there are kids that live in 2 households. Right now, no text books left in text book rooms. PTA to work with Bruce to look at resources
    - Needs during and after new construction of school
    - Parent suggestion: We need proposal of how many and how much this all costs. PTA needs things in writing
      * Please email [grantptapresident@gmail.com](mailto:grantptapresident@gmail.com) with suggestions. Contact information is also posted on the website
      * Thank you to teachers that attended meeting. It helps discussion and to ensure all are on the same page. Lara Gates is planning to come to next staff meeting
* Gala and auction update and discussion
  + Lydia is the gala chair, Jessica is donation chair. Alisa, Laura, Stacey and Lara have been helping out
  + Original suggestion: McMillan Center. Now we are looking at moving our Gala location to UCC (Mission Hills Church). Will save $10K -$12K if we can move it (waiting for church approval)
  + Red Door can take food costs from $12K to $2K
  + We would probably have to cap number of people that can go - 225 capacity
  + Ticket prices would range from $50-$75. Will not be sit down dinner like we have done the last couple of years. It would be more tasting with focus on auction
  + Looking to do something more fun and a little more casual but still nice
  + ASB is arranging free child care
  + Beer and wine only, no hard alcohol
  + Looking for auction items. If parents have anything to donate get in contact with Gala committee
  + Gala still scheduled for May 2nd.
  + Response to proposed change was positive

**7:40 PM Roundtable**

* Steve – bike rodeos are available, grant application has expired. Bike rodeo is held by experienced cyclists. Among other things, they teach safety rules. Often associated with cheap helmets given away by local bike shop. Steve to look into cost for K-5 assembly and how many kids they can accommodate at one time.
* Anne - After school programs, i.e. DJ school, fiber arts class, arduino club, mine craft coding class are available. All posted on school website
* Anne - Posting on website about measles outbreak. No reported outbreaks in SD unified district
* Anne - Herb Grant information is on site as well as farm to table information. The process Elena did was a long process. Please say thank you to Elena. She is also working on recycling program.
  + Recycling program will be on a future PTA meeting agenda
  + Karen- Lunch supervisors feel overworked and tapped. Recycling adds another responsibility. Kids need to get in a routine similar to wack and stack.
  + Recycling is classrooms are not always happening.
    - Suggestion: Older students mentoring younger kids. Student leadership opportunity. Maybe ASB can do it
    - Suggestion: Fun signs to educate kids on what they can recycle. Subtle reminders. Lara to follow up with Champagne Lu
* Anne – Middle School fine art program is on display end of Feb- beginning of March.

**7:50 PM Adjourn**